



For Immediate Release

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East Hartford Mayor Highlights Need for Fastrak East

(March 31, 2015) **East Hartford, CT** – Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc, along with Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and several other state and federal dignitaries, took the first ride on a CTfastrak bus Friday afternoon at the CTfastrak Opening Day Ceremony & Inaugural Ride. The ride was a precursor to Saturday, where riders were able to experience rapid bus service for the first time, when service began at 4:05 a.m. Mayor Leclerc, after experiencing CTfastrak, reinforced the need for the implementation of Fastrak East, a proposed line that would provide rapid transit service to East Hartford, Manchester and eventually the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

Mayor Leclerc said last week that Fastrak East would not only provide access to residents in those communities, but countless other commuters, at a portion of the nearly \$600 million investment in the newly-launched CTfastrak.

“Fastrak East would bolster job access not only for our residents, but also for those students and workers who reside and work east of the river,” Mayor Leclerc said. “With a modest investment of \$100 million, the next phase can be completed and extend the program to tens of thousands of employees that work in this region.”

According to Capitol Region Council of Governments Executive Director Lyle Wray, the plan for Fastrak East has been about 10 years in the making, with Gov. Malloy most recently putting Fastrak East into his five-year transportation plan.

“Gov. Malloy has included Fastrak East in his five-year plan, with no exact date indicated for when it would be started,” Wray said. “But once there’s approval and the money is lined up, it could be completed relatively fast, possibly in two years’ time.”

Fastrak East would use existing infrastructure by employing current HOV lanes, in lieu of extending the nine-mile road built for CTfastrak and would improve job access to a corridor that contains 40,000 jobs in East Hartford and Manchester. The implementation of Fastrak East would extend access to those employed at Pratt & Whitney and Goodwin College, in addition to many of the other large businesses in those two towns, increasing the corridor’s employment access total to 150,000 jobs, from New Britain to Manchester.

Mayor Leclerc reinforced the importance of the region east of the river and asked for a call to action for Fastrak East.

“Connecting those two portions of the region, from New Britain to Manchester, reflects unity and solidifies the connection of our citizens to businesses that are the backbone of our economy,” Mayor Leclerc said. “Not only will Fastrak East provide easier access to tens of thousands of jobs in the area, but it will provide East Hartford with a rapid transportation system that will spur economic growth for the future.”

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